

Issue 94  
July 2024

# The Ormskirk and District Family Historian

*The Magazine of the  
Ormskirk and District  
Family History Society*

# The ODFHS Useful Information Page

Ormskirk and District Family History Society was inaugurated in 1980.

Registered Charity (No. 1004895). Member of the Family History Federation.

## ADDRESS FOR ALL CORRESPONDENCE

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Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/OrmskirkDistrictFamilyHistorySociety/](https://www.facebook.com/OrmskirkDistrictFamilyHistorySociety/)

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June Dean Golics, Sally Dean, Pam Richardson, Keith Jenkins, Kate Hurst,

Eunice Woof, Dot Broady Hawkes, Kathryn MacDonald, Alan Cooper,

Norma Gregson, Keith Broadbent, Emma Davison, Alison Ackland

## Could You Contribute To Our Magazine?

Articles for the Ormskirk and District Family Historian are always welcome.

If you'd like to send something for publication, please contact the Editor using the e-mail or postal address above. We will do our best to look after all items (and will return them on request) but we suggest that you retain any original documents.

# The Ormskirk and District Family Historian

Issue 94 - July 2024

View From The Chair	4
Memory Collectors at Ormskirk Library, 16 March 2024	6
Images of Burscough Exhibition, 30 and 31 March 2024	7
Members' Interests Directory	9
Talk Reports	11
Sharing People's History of West Lancashire	20
What's Coming Up? July to October 2024	21
National Events	22
Liddiard Family Gathering	23
ODFHS Income and Expenditure 2023/24	23
ODFHS Treasurer's AGM Report	26
Arthur William Davenport	27
Ormskirk Mediaeval Festival	34
The Weavers Uprising Bicentennial Committee	35
Albert Anderton Coward	35
Advertisements	38
Subscription Rates	39
Society Facilities	39

*"Not to know what happened before we were born is to remain perpetually a child. For what is the worth of a human life unless it is woven into the life of our ancestors by the recording of history."* - Cicero (106-143BC) sent in by Jean Haikalis (1946-2017)

## View From The Chair

Welcome to something of a milestone magazine. In fourteen years as Editor (and six as Chair), this is the first time I have seen a change of Secretary, so I cannot continue without a word of praise for Pam Richardson (whose hard work and organisational skills have kept ODFHS - and its Committee - running smoothly for the past twenty-two years). I'm equally delighted to welcome Ruth Mercer as our new Secretary; I am sure she will be just as competent and capable.

Ruth's election means that our Committee now includes five people from outside West Lancashire; I hope this is as good a demonstration as any that you don't have to live locally to be involved with ODFHS. We politely ask any Members to note our new postal address (given on page 2), the first change in twelve years.

This year's AGM brings two other noteworthy changes. After almost forty years, June Dean Golics has retired from the committee - a truly outstanding term of service, made more remarkable because she's approaching her 90th birthday. Her memory and knowledge of local history never fails to amaze me! At more than fifty years her junior, being increasingly busy with my day job, I was delighted to see Keith Broadbent elected as Vice Chair at this year's AGM; he will be assisting me as and when necessary. I'm sure you can imagine how much goes on "behind the scenes" to keep ODFHS running smoothly, and I'm very grateful to Keith for volunteering his help.

I'm conscious that what I've written above might give the impression that helping ODFHS means being "locked in" to a formal role, but in 2024 the Society seems to be disproving that idea. A simple idea to create a "volunteers form" for our website, to offer members the chance to help at events like the Ormskirk Mediaeval Festival (report on pg.34), has had positive results in the past few weeks. Meanwhile, member Keith Howard has offered to update the Westhead memorial inscription data - simply because he spotted some errors in the existing publication. It may be a relatively short-term task, but I know his work will benefit others in the future, and his help is greatly appreciated!

When our last issue went to print, ODFHS was only a few months into our crowdfunded Sharing People's History of West Lancashire project; since then, our booklets have evolved at a rapid pace! By the time you read this, the first installment, *Family History and the Lost Buildings of West Lancashire*, will have been launched at an event at Ormskirk Library on 10 June 2024, and we are preparing a free digital edition, which can be downloaded from [www.odfhs.website](http://www.odfhs.website) - the publications team are taking full advantage of the technology at our disposal!

If you've been following our occasional YouTube updates on the crowdfunding project (details of the latest one on pg.20), I'm sure you have seen some examples of the colourful illustrations chosen by our publications team; in its own way, Issue 94 is just as decorative - a staggering twenty-one images (and one family tree diagram) have been packed into this edition.

With my editor's hat on, there were moments during May 2024 when I seriously doubted that I could fit everything in without adding extra pages . . . but perhaps that's simply a reflection of how busy things have been at ODFHS over the past year?

At the time of writing, a couple of committee members are preparing to represent Ormskirk and District Family History Society at the Family History Show in York, on 22 June 2024; please look out for a full report in our next Magazine. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this one - it's full of everything from football to Freemasonry!

Kate Hurst  
June 2024



# Memory Collectors at Ormskirk Library

16 March 2024

report and photos by Kathryn MacDonald



(above) Kathryn MacDonald (standing) with Angie Thompson and Becky Atherton at the Memory Collectors event

In a collaboration with artists Angie Thompson and Becky Atherton, those attending the Memory Collectors Event at Ormskirk Library had the chance to bring along treasured keepsakes with Ormskirk connections, and to record their memories.

It was a busy day with many interesting artefacts and memories shared. The ODFHS Ormskirk Town Centre Shops and Businesses Past and Present display and “Family History Museum in a Suitcase” served as memory joggers, prompting many “oh I remember that” comments.

Our new display boards and cases, funded by a grant from Ormskirk Clocktower Rotary (one is shown on the right).

Dot Hawkes and Kathryn MacDonald (Librarian) will follow up some of the stories with further research.



(above) The “Family History Museum in a Suitcase”

# Images of Burscough Exhibition

30 and 31 March 2024



(above) Kathryn MacDonald, Pam Richardson and Norma Gregson at the Images of Burscough event

After a four-and-a-half year hiatus, ODFHS volunteers were delighted to attend Michael Dawson’s Images of Burscough Exhibition. The Stanley Club at Burscough was filled with displays representing all aspects of West Lancashire’s history, from the ancient Burscough Priory to the Stanley Cinema restoration project. The various exhibits were as well-received as the collection of hundreds of photos from the Images of Burscough archives, carefully arranged in the main hall.

Over the weekend, Norma Gregson, Keith and Julie Broadbent, Kathryn and Colin MacDonald, Kate Hurst and Pam Richardson

welcomed many visitors to the ODFHS display; a series of framed artefacts from our archives prompted as many conversations as Keith Broadbent’s feature on the story of Ormskirk-born Arthur William DAVENPORT. (See pp.27-33)



Mystery photos and a miniature 1936 calendar (above left) and nineteenth century cartes de visite by local photographers J.T. TAYLOR of Railway Road, (above) R. CAMMACK and Alfred WRAGG of Burscough Street formed part of the ODFHS display.

Richard Houghton supplied thoroughly researched boards centred on local First World War soldiers, complemented by their portraits. Alan Barrow's Airmen of West Lancashire display featured HMS Ringtail and its original ensign, whilst Alan Birch brought large models of the aircraft *Fairey Swordfish*, *Firefly* and *Gloster Meteor*.



(above, left) The HMS Ringtail ensign; (above, right) Display by Lathom Park Trust, depicting floor tile designs, armorial bearings and a floor plan for Burscough Priory

Moments from more recent history were represented by collection of outfits once worn by Roy and Joan Harkness, in their roles of Town Crier and Consort. A set of colour portraits (including Bill Huyton, our late Chairman Emeritus) made a fitting memorial to twenty-nine members of the local history community who have passed away since the last Images of Burscough exhibition in 2019.

## Members' Interests Directory

The Members' Interests Directory has been updated. The latest version is now available online in the members' area of the ODFHS website. The following members' interests have been added to the Directory at this update, with authority to include the member's name and interests in the next magazine:

Kathryn Baird - BIRCHALL  
 Heather Cooper - BALL, JOHNSON and RIMMER  
 June Dean Golics - PILKINGTON  
 Julie Delaney - ALLERTON, HOWARD, OLLERTON and THOMPSON  
 Michael Dwyer - DWYER and MATTOCKS  
 Paul Gibson - SCARISBRICK  
 Rob Green - CHARNOCK, HARVEY, MARTIN, VOLP and WHITE  
 Norma Gregson - ABRAM, BERRY, JAEGER and THORNTON  
 Mike Halligan - ALTY, BALDWIN, BANKS, HESKETH, SIDWELL and STANLEY  
 Andrew Hayes - ORMISHER and WEETON  
 Brylin Highton - AUGHTON, HIGHTON, HUYTON, MARSHALL and SCARISBRICK  
 Kate Hurst - COFFEY, FRANCE and GRAYSON.  
 Beryl Jones - BERRY, MERSER and SPENSER  
 Lynne Klein - BUSKEY, ENTWISTLE, LEVER, MOSLEY and TINKER  
 Pat Lucas - BLACKHURST  
 Mary McCarthy - GEORGESON, LATHOM, PEET, PRESCOT, RADCLIFF(E), RIMMER, ROTHWELL and ROUGHLEY  
 Jeff Naylor - HOLDEN, ROBINSON and SPURR  
 Anne Pennington - ALLEN and BALMER  
 Elizabeth Prior - BERRY, HOLLAND, JUMP and WOODS  
 Virginia Salkeld - CULSHAW and HESKETH  
 Catherine Shacklady - GARNET, HESKETH, ROBINSON-POWELL and TURTON  
 David Sumner - SUMNER  
 David Threlfall - HALSALL, LIVESEY, RIMMER and THRELFALL  
 Margaret Wainwright - MORRIS  
 Pat Williams - ROSSINGTON

Anyone wishing to contact other members about a particular surname interest should contact Keith Broadbent ([membership@odfhs.email](mailto:membership@odfhs.email)) who will provide the appropriate details. Only details specifically authorised by members for release to other members will be passed on.

# Talk Reports

## 24 January 2024 - Masonic Halls, Lodges and Regalia by Fred Hargreaves

Fred Hargreaves, a local Freemason for forty-seven years, presented an informal and entertaining overview of Freemasonry, with local and North Western references. The first known English Freemason - Elias ASHMOLE - was from Warrington. His extensive collection of books and documents formed the basis of Oxford University's famous Ashmolean Library and Museum. Although Freemasonry was clearly well established in England by ASHMOLE's time, there's no record of when or how this happened.

It is believed that Freemasonry developed from the trade guilds of medieval stonemasons, using tools, equipment and communication systems that were familiar to them. When the great cathedrals of Europe were built, it is thought that experienced craftsmen were employed in England, to ensure reliable construction standards. "Apprentices", "fellows of the craft" and "master masons" are all terms used in modern Freemasonry, and would have been as familiar to medieval masons as the stout protective aprons and gloves that feature in modern Masonic costume. Similarly, a handshake in the early stonemason days would have conveyed a non-visual understanding of each worker's skill level; small details in the handshake differed slightly according to experience - another early tradition in use today. Fred added that he would describe the much-discussed Masonic handshake as "private", rather than secret.

Freemasonry developed widely in England in the 1800s; by the 1870s, Lancashire had more lodges than anywhere except London. The county was split into two divisions, East and West, and the first Earl of Lathom became Provincial Grand Master for the Western province. The first record of a lodge in Ormskirk was in the late 1700s, but by 1838 this had been 'erased' for reasons unknown. It must have been for something extreme (perhaps a failure to produce sufficient charitable funds), but Ormskirk soon had a new lodge, followed by others locally.

Charitable giving has always been essential for Freemasons. Before the National Lottery, British Freemasons always topped the list of charitable donors (they now hold second place). Money is raised through social events within lodges, rather than requests for donations from the public; a basic aim of Freemasonry is to help the less fortunate, in an atmosphere of good fellowship.

Sharing a meal at the end of meetings is standard; in a place like Ormskirk (well supplied with hotels and pubs) it's easy to see how several local lodges came about! However, frequent closures in the mid to late twentieth century made it harder to find a meeting place. In response, the Ormskirk and Skelmersdale lodges united to buy and renovate what is now Park Hall, originally built in 1852 as a print-works. The plan was that the ground floor would be open to the public as a restaurant or cafe (now O'Briens) and the top floor used as a function space. To this day, it is used on many nights every week.

To conclude, Fred invited the audience to view the colourful display of Masonic regalia he had brought along. An interested crowd was keen to ask questions and exchange comments. He added that contemporary open online recruitment and the use of social media had replaced older procedures, when new entrants required an invitation from an established Freemason. This is now bearing fruit with an influx of new younger members, and it's now possible for those as young as eighteen to join. ODFHS Chair Kate Hurst thanked Fred for his enjoyable talk, which met with warm applause.

*Talk report by Julie Broadbent.*

## 28 February 2024 - The Civil War In Lancashire by Phillipe le Pinnet

Just one day after the Society's forty-fourth anniversary, 28 members and 29 visitors gathered for Phillipe le Pinnet's fascinating talk on the impact of the English Civil War in Lancashire. Dressed in period clothing, Phillipe guided listeners through the county's links to the conflict, covering a range of locations from Bolton and



*Phillipe le Pinnet in costume.*  
(Photo by Kathryn MacDonald.)

Manchester to Lathom House - and dispelling a few myths along the way.

Phillipe was ably assisted by his son Freddie (also wearing seventeenth-century attire), whose in-depth guide to tiny details found on a garment - such as leather shoes and clothing dyed with plant-based pigments - revealed much about the wearer's relative wealth and status. One audience member described him as a natural presenter!

A demonstration of loading a musket, using small canisters of ammunition carried on a soldier's belt was given (no actual gunpowder was in the room at the time). A taper was often used to light the powder; it was estimated that hundreds of miles of taper were made and used during the course of the Civil War.

References to the 1644 siege of Lathom House (and the determination of Charlotte, Countess of Derby to defend her home), the subsequent execution of the Earl of Derby at Bolton, and the skirmish at Aughton Moss were much appreciated, and prompted many interested questions.

An account of the 1642 Siege of Manchester was illustrated with a contemporary map; this "Plan of Manchester and Salford taken about 1650" showed a town surrounded by fields, with landmarks such as the Sessions House and Acres Field clearly marked.

Afterwards, listeners were eager to examine some of the artefacts brought by Phillipe, including swords, reproduction clothing made from textiles available in the Civil War era (such as a dress with hand-sewn eyelets to lace up the garment), and items found on battlefield sites.

ODFHS Librarian Kathryn MacDonald brought a selection of topical books from our Research Library, including *To Play The Man: The Story of Lady Derby and the Siege of Lathom House 1643-1645* - a perfect complement to a highly enjoyable evening.

A video of moments from the night is on our YouTube channel, under the title *ODFHS February 2024 Meeting | The Civil War In Lancashire*

*Talk report by Kate Hurst.*

## 27 March 2024 - 'Gingerbread' and 'The Ormskirk Yeoman' by Roy Bayfield

Speaker Roy Bayfield immersed his audience in the world of late nineteenth century Ormskirk, through the work of William GUEST (W.A.G.), who published a magazine described as 'quite the Ormskirk 'Punch' - the humorous satirical periodical - between 1886 and 1889. The Ormskirk magazine (under two different titles) had fascinating content, including topical articles, humorous comment, local features with a satirical edge, and advertisements giving insight into daily life.

W.A.G. lived in Stanley Street and later St Helens Road, with a printing office in Market Row, next to the Corn Exchange on Moor Street. He had high aspirations for his magazine, aiming to present 'slices of the life of the town' to 'the important and intelligent community of Ormskirk', hoping for a 'place of its own in our social and intellectual life'. "Gingerbread" was sold locally, with outlets in Lathom, Ormskirk, Skelmersdale, Melling, Town Green, Aughton and Burscough.

Content ranged from *Sir Guy de L'Orm, a romance of Medieval Lancashire*, to news



*Phillipe's son Freddie in costume*



reports from “*Our London Correspondent*”; local items included “*At The Cross*”, “*Aughton Affairs*”, and “*Skelmersdale Notes*”. There were jokes and cartoons, readers’ correspondence, commentary on institutions like the Ormskirk Workhouse and local schools and churches, items in local dialect, and views on the statue of Disraeli and local architecture (the Kings Arms was much criticised).

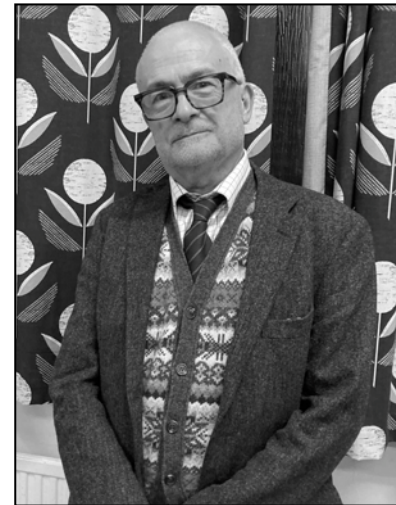
Useful information included transport details and the deadline for posting a letter for same-day delivery - astonishing to us in 2024! Advertisements took us straight into late-Victorian life. Some businesses are still known today in Ormskirk, e.g. Jackson's plumbers. Other spaces were taken by music teachers, household services, a travelling professor, “*Best Household Coal*”, tooth pulling, situations vacant for servants, and tradesmen listing their services.

It was eye-opening to see tea rooms in Burscough Street offering roast dinners at 10d. or a plate of hotpot at 3d. GUEST also advertised his own printing and binding work, including endorsements from friends and colleagues. His bold claim was ‘W.A.G. is always on deck’, looking after his customers at all times.

Prominent local men like the headmaster of Ormskirk Grammar School were profiled in highly complimentary articles, with no satirical edge at all, and contemporary problems received serious, in-depth attention; three issues gave accounts of conditions in the very poorest parts of Ormskirk, and stand as a substantial social document of the times.

One submission even came from a famous author; a short story by Thomas Hardy was serialised over three issues. Roy explained that there were ‘Fiction Bureaux’ who sold stories to publishers of magazines (other local titles included the *Liverpool Busy Bee* and the *Chorley Weasel*.) Although ambitious, the range of material proved commercially unsuccessful; in 1889 William GUEST sold out to the *Ormskirk Advertiser*.

Using Ancestry, Roy located him in the 1911 census as a “Printing Manager”; by 1921, he lived in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, with his daughter, working as a jobbing printer on his own press.



Roy Bayfield after our  
March meeting.  
(Photo by Kathryn MacDonald.)

Questions from the audience prompted Roy to discuss sales of the magazine, the role of local agents (who worked for a percentage), comments on the smaller West Lancashire villages, W.A.G.'s own writing for the magazine, and comparisons with the *Ormskirk Advertiser*. Roy kindly provided his e-mail address to anyone seeking further information that he could reasonably help with.

ODFHS Chair Kate Hurst thanked Roy with enthusiasm, noting that *Gingerbread* portrayed Ormskirk as a place appreciative of witty social commentary. Warm applause showed the audience’s enjoyment.

Talk report by Julie Broadbent.

#### 24 April 2024 - A 16th Century Presentation by Lizzie Jones

Lizzie Jones entertained a large audience with humour, pathos and historical insight in the role of Anne Hathaway, William Shakespeare’s wife, on the closest possible date to Shakespeare's birthday on 23rd April.

Speaking as if in the year 1622, six years after Shakespeare died and the year of the publication of the full texts of his plays, she explained the importance of this. Pirated copies of some plays had been published before, but were often incomplete, drawn from rough copies scribbled down by spectators, or by cobbling together scripts for individual parts. Actors weren't given the full text of the play because of the risk that they might sell them to rival companies who could then stage the play without paying the writer. As a result, few Elizabethan plays have survived, but after Shakespeare’s death, two of his friends realised that it was vital to preserve his important work.



Lizzie represented Anne Hathaway as an uneducated, illiterate countrywoman who never left Stratford, but nonetheless had a shrewd insight of Shakespeare's other life in the busy environment of London's theatres. Her own life in Stratford framed the story of Shakespeare.

A detailed explanation from head to toe showed us that Lizzie's hand-sewn outfit illustrated Anne Hathaway's social position as a fairly well-off middle-class wife in 1622. She began her story with William and Anne's courtship. Early married life in Stratford with three growing children was never quite settled, due to William's difficulty in settling down to family life in the quiet country town. Eventually, having always been drawn to performances by various companies of travelling players, he decided to try his own luck in London as an actor and part-time writer.



*Lizzie Jones in character as Anne Hathaway at our April meeting.*

For over twenty years, Shakespeare moved from acting to writing and stage management; his social circle expanded to include the wealthy and famous, even royalty. Visits home to Stratford were rare, and were often prompted by temporary business difficulties, or something more dangerous, such as plague - but not, came the rueful aside, as a result of difficulties at home.

Lizzie's lively re-enactment kept her audience engrossed throughout. Afterwards, she was happy to answer a range of questions on Shakespeare's writing, his social life, his links with Lancashire and his family life in Stratford. She also explained the painstaking process of developing her monologues, from research through to scripting, and portraying details of costume and character. Many interesting details were included, such as the finances and practicalities of theatre and business. It was obvious that much research underpinned the story. Her down-to-earth approach and humorous delivery provided an entertaining, thought-provoking evening, as well as new insight into William Shakespeare's life at home and in the theatre.

*Thanks to Julie Broadbent for the April talk report*

#### **22 May 2024 - AGM followed by The Lost Buildings of West Lancashire**

The May meeting began with our AGM, when Pam Richardson stepped down as Secretary after a remarkable twenty-two years; a card, a bouquet and a small painting were given as a mark of appreciation for her service to ODFHS. Ruth Mercer was elected as the new Secretary, whilst Keith Broadbent was formally appointed Vice Chair (reflecting the increased workload of the Committee).

As of 31 March 2024, membership stood at 168 (including 11 overseas); 91 have chosen to Gift Aid their subscriptions, and 49 have opted for a digital magazine. Many efforts to modernise the joining/renewal process have been made, including the option to pay via PayPal, an online application/renewal form, and directing members to our digital magazine archive on our website (rather than sending files by e-mail). Membership Secretary Keith Broadbent has done sterling work to overhaul our membership system.

Over the past year, particular efforts have been made to raise the profile of the Research Library, through events, publications, projects and talks. In 2023/24, the Executive Committee agreed a budget for library purchases; perspex display boxes and leaflet holders have been funded by grants from Ormskirk Rotary Club,

and our SpaceHive campaign; these have been used at six public events. The Library played a significant role in preparing our *Family History and Lost Buildings of West Lancashire* booklet, and its sister title, *Family History and the Landmarks of West Lancashire*. Our holdings have been enhanced by generous donations of books, documents and artefacts; new photographs, postcards and scanned documents have been added to the Digital Library. Visitors have included staff and students from Edge Hill University, members of the Ormskirk Cultural Consortium, and a family history researcher from the USA. Librarian Kathryn MacDonald has given the library-themed talk, “*Around Ormskirk in Six Objects*” in our local area five times; the amount of work she puts into our events, and maintaining the Library, is truly appreciated.

Although sales of data files and CDs have fallen slightly, new additions to our sales list include *A Slice of Gingerbread* (our best seller this year; over 400 copies sold) and Jean Gidman’s *The Man Who Wasn’t There*. We were alerted to problems with our Westhead MI data; ODFHS member Keith Howard is now working on an update, and we are very grateful for his help.

Interest in our Family History Help Desk (held at Ormskirk Library; full details on pg.39) has increased, with new helpers assisting enquirers. Zoom chats have continued, on a quarterly basis, supported by a small group of “regulars” from as far away as Australia and New Zealand. Requests for help arrive via Facebook, e-mail and outside events.

Alan Cooper has done excellent work to maintain and update our website. Routine work includes additions to the Gallery and Library Archive, updating the Magazine and Exchange Magazine archive and digitisation of library items to make them more accessible for out-of-area members. Besides online membership forms, new innovations (e.g. PayPal payments, online voting system for AGM) have been introduced. To assist future continuity, a “website management manual” is being created; Kathryn MacDonald has taken over some routine updates.

3,500 individuals were added to the main Boat Families tree in the year ending March 2024, bringing the total to over 63,000. Jean Ellis-Parr’s research uncovered

the story of boatman William Worthington, who was hanged for murdering his wife Ann Sherman; evidence given by his stepdaughter is amongst the material stored in the Media/Documents section of the site. Thanks go to Keith Jenkins for maintaining our valuable database.

Recent activities provided plenty of material for the Magazine, e.g. SpaceHive project, outside events; various planned articles and extracts (the 1790s Ormskirk Traders and lists of 17th century recusants) are being held in reserve. For the benefit of members who cannot attend meetings, photos are added to our talk reports when possible. Thanks are due to all who contribute them; Kathryn MacDonald deserves particular praise for her contributions. If postal charges were not a concern, the current 40-page format could easily be permanently extended to 48 pages. Thanks were given to Kate Hurst for her effort with the Magazines.

The ODFHS Facebook page is invaluable for promoting our meetings; between May 2023 and April 2024, over 70 photos from meetings and outside events were published. The recent SpaceHive project provided plenty of inspiration for Facebook posts, e.g. material from our physical Research Library, updates to our Digital Library and YouTube videos. As of 30 April 2024, the Society’s YouTube channel hosts 69 videos; eight new releases since May 2023. Future topics under consideration are a walk along a section of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and views of St. John’s Churchyard in Burscough (Anglican, Catholic or both).

Dot Broady-Hawkes arranged another year of entertaining talks; attendance at our February 2024 meeting was close to 60 at Phillipe le Pinnet’s enthralling talk on the Civil War in Lancashire. We look forward to enjoying more from the speakers Dot has booked in the coming months; for the future, a sub-committee will work on ideas for future meetings and any members with suggestions for speakers are encouraged to contact the Society.

The Executive Committee continues to meet via Zoom; June Dean-Golics elected to step down as a full-committee member, and will become an honorary co-opted member in acknowledgement of her forty years of service to ODFHS to date. Pam Richardson confirmed that, despite standing down as Secretary, she would remain

on the Committee.

After the AGM, Kate Hurst introduced four short presentations on the Society's forthcoming booklet *Family History and The Lost Buildings of West Lancashire*. The first three sections illustrated the overall aim of the project - to investigate significant historic buildings in the area, which are now lost to us.

Julie Broadbent described the two original wings of the Tudor Great Hall at Rufford Old Hall, Norma Gregson discussed the windmill at Aughton Moss, and Pam Richardson told the story of the Kings Arms in Ormskirk. Each presentation was based on an article the speaker had researched and written for the SpaceHive booklet.

Kathryn MacDonald explained the booklet's development, from the early stages (including the crowdfunding project with Lancashire County Council's Spacehive scheme) to planning, research, writing, editing and finalising the publication. Here and there, hints of the ongoing work on the second booklet were dropped; Keith Broadbent added that ODFHS hoped to make the booklet available in PDF form in the public area of the ODFHS website, and also available through Parish Chest, free to download or for the price of postage as a printed copy.

## *Sharing People's History of West Lancashire*

Our latest video progress report can be found on our YouTube channel:

- **ODFHS SpaceHive Project Update | Sharing People's History of West Lancashire | May 2024**

A free digital download of our new Lost Buildings of West Lancashire booklet is available at <https://www.parishchest.com/family-history-and-lost-buildings-of-west-lancashire-free-download-12958.php>

## *What's Coming Up?*

*Summer/Autumn 2024*

### *Face-To-Face Meetings and Events*

1 July 2024	Family History Help Desk at Ormskirk Library, Burscough Street, Ormskirk. 10.30a.m. to 11.30a.m.
14 July 2024	ODFHS will attend the Ormskirk Gingerbread Festival. Church Street, Ormskirk. 11a.m. to 5p.m.
24 July 2024	Inns and Beerhouses of Ormskirk by Dot Broady-Hawkes
5 August 2024	Family History Help Desk at Ormskirk Library, Burscough Street, Ormskirk. 10.30a.m. to 11.30a.m.
28 August 2024	Sent To The Madhouse by Louise Wade
2 September 2024	Family History Help Desk at Ormskirk Library, Burscough Street, Ormskirk. 10.30a.m. to 11.30a.m.
25 September 2024	<i>details of talk and speaker to be finalised</i>
7 October 2024	Family History Help Desk at Ormskirk Library, Burscough Street, Ormskirk. 10.30a.m. to 11.30a.m.
12 October 2024	Open Day at New Church House, Ormskirk
23 October 2024	The Boat Families of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal by Kate Hurst

*Our in-person talks are held at the Guide HQ, Moorgate, Ormskirk, and begin at 7.30p.m.*

*All welcome; non-members are requested to make a £2 donation.*

*Refreshments available. Please see [www.odfhs.website](http://www.odfhs.website) for any changes to our programme.*

*No booking required for the Ormskirk Library Help Desk - just turn up!*

## Zoom Meetings

4 July 2024                    **ZOOM Family History Chat** 6p.m. (BST)  
14 November 2024           **ZOOM Family History Chat** 12p.m. (GMT)

For access details for our Zoom meetings, please contact Kate Hurst  
(ODFHS Chair) at [chairman@odfhs.email](mailto:chairman@odfhs.email)

## National Events

### **Families In British India 25th Anniversary Conference**

DATE: 27 to 29 September 2024, 10a.m. to 4p.m.  
VENUE: DoubleTree by Hilton, Oxford Belfry, London Road, Milton Common,  
Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 2JW  
PRICE: variable depending on package booked  
OTHER DETAILS: Three-day conference featuring talks and lectures by well-known  
figures from the international family history\heritage community. Accommodation  
available at the venue. Full details at <https://www.fibis.org/25-years-conference/>

### **Huddersfield and District FHS Family and Local History Fair**

DATE: 26 October 2024, 10a.m. to 4p.m.  
VENUE: Greenhead Masonic Hall, 26 Greenhead Road, Huddersfield, HD1 4EN  
PRICE: £5 admission; free to under-16s  
OTHER DETAILS: Talks on family and local history topics. Ask the Experts family  
history research service. Exhibitors include family and local history societies,  
book, map and genealogy suppliers. Free car parking. Refreshments available. For  
further details, please see [www.hdfhs.org.uk](http://www.hdfhs.org.uk)

### **West Surrey FHS Family and Local History Fair**

DATE: 9 November 2024, 10a.m. to 4.30p.m.

VENUE: Woking Leisure Centre, Kingfield Road, Woking, GU22 9BA  
PRICE: Free admission; Woking Borough Council parking charges apply on site.  
OTHER DETAILS: Family history societies, local history groups and commercial  
companies will attend. WSFHS research area and specialist help desks available.  
Cafe on-site. Please see <https://wsfhs.co.uk/pages/openday.php>

## 2024 Liddiard Family Gathering

The third Liddiard Family Gathering will be held between 20 and 22 September  
2024, at Aldbourne, Wiltshire. The weekend will include a behind the scenes tour  
of Wiltshire History Centre at Chippenham, Liddiard family trees on display  
(now spanning an astonishing 300 feet end-to-end!), a tour of the village of  
Aldbourne, an stories of the Liddiard family near and far. For more information,  
please visit <https://liddiardfamilyhistorysociety.com/wp/events-2/>

## Ormskirk and District Family History Society Income and Expenditure 2023/2024

<i>Income</i>	<i>Notes*</i>	<i>2023-24</i>	<i>2022-23</i>
Subscriptions Received	see pp.26-27	2,487.17	1,600.00
less pre-paid subscriptions for 2024/25		-1,087.17	- 142.00
Subscriptions for current year		1,400.00	1,458.00
Sale of Publications	1	727.00	84.47



Sale of CDs and DVDs		241.09	369.84		
Visitors at Meetings		101.00	139.00		Notes
Refreshments		184.24	43.31		
Donations/Grants	2	575.75	24.70	1	Most of the increase due to sales of <i>A Slice of Gingerbread</i> (ASOG) (£572).
Magazine Adverts	3	12.00	48.00	2	Includes Rotary Club (£250), Sumner Family Appreciation (£100), Civic Hall Fundraising (£105.59), Raffle (£48).
SpaceHive Project Income	4	2,901.78	0.00	3	Some advertising revenue still owed will be received in 2024-25.
Heritage Action Zone	5	500.00	0.00	4	Additional Project: 50% raised from crowdfunding, 50% from Lancashire County Council.
Talks by ODFHS Speakers	6	35.00	0.00	5	Additional Project: Payments for participation in 2 x Memory Collectors Events.
Outside Events	7	0.00	88.45	6	U3A talk, Kathryn MacDonald.
Miscellaneous	8	0.01	55.00	7	Recategorisation: Mediaeval weekend takings included in other categories (donations/publications/CD sales).
HMRC Gift Aid	9	0.00	179.64	8	Recategorisation: Raffle (net £48) at November 2023 meeting included in donations.
Bank Interest		<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	9	HMRC Gift Aid payment will be received in 24-25 (predicted £457). SpaceHive and more Gift Aid members.
		£6,677.87	£2491.22	10	Includes 2 extraordinary items: Printing of ASOG book (£260), printing of church postcards (£107).
<i>Expenditure</i>		<i>2023-24</i>	<i>2022-23</i>	11	Guide Hut rental increased to cover higher electricity charges.
General Admin	10	1,060.36	663.16	12	2023-24 covers 4x magazine printing costs; 2022-23 covered only 2x (effect of late invoice).
Chair's Expenses		126.77	56.00	13	Includes £343 display equipment (see Rotary Club grant), £244 Library purchases, £100 book stock for sale.
Treasurer's Expenses		0.00	117.50	14	Purchase of Zettle card reader and microphone for recording vocal memories.
Magazine Editor's Expenses		0.00	0.00	15	Attendance at UK Family History Societies exhibition at York.
Guide Hut Rental	11	188.00	112.00	16	Spent to date against SpaceHive Project Income. Future spend predicted £1700.
Scout Hall Rental		650.00	650.00	17	Expenses against payment of £500 Heritage Action to ODFHS.
Postages		325.12	331.47		
Speakers and Visit Expenses		60.00	55.00		
Magazine Printing	12	1,185.00	640.00		
Publication Purchases	13	723.68	36.23		
Equipment	14	100.80	0.00		
Booking Fees		0.00	0.00		
Outside Visits	15	84.00	0.00		
SpaceHive Project	16	856.62	0.00		
Heritage Action Zone	17	352.85	0.00		
Miscellaneous		0.00	265.00		
Surplus or -Deficit for the Year		<u>-5,741.22</u>	<u>-2,953.30</u>		
		£ 936.65	-£462.08		

# ODFHS Treasurer's AGM Report 2023/24

Since April 2023, our overall funds increased by £937, not including any effects of membership renewals relating to 2024/25. One of the main reasons for the increase was the effect of the Spacehive crowdfunding project to produce two books, for which we received match funding from Lancashire County Council, which enhanced the generous donations from members and fundraising activities. To date we have spent £857 against the project, and future spend during 2024/25 is predicted to be around £1700. On current trends, overall funds are expected to fall back again during next year (2024-25) to approximately the same level as April 2023. This is due to the following main reasons:

Gain during 2023-24	£ 937	£937
Predicted main differences 2024-25 compared to 2023-24		
One-off Spacehive project commitments	-£1700	
Reduced levels of sales of A Slice of Gingerbread	-£ 496	
Effect of membership fee increases	£ 506	
Payments for standard 3x magazine print runs in lieu of 4x	£ 296	
GiftAid claim payment expected in 2023-24 delayed until 2024-25	£ 457	-£937
Predicted movement over two years		£ 0

Conclusion: ODFHS is in a stable financial situation. Our bank balance remains very healthy, standing at £18,865 at year end (31st March 2024). The 2023-24 accounts have been audited by our long-standing auditor, Ian White, whom I propose as our planned auditor again for the 2024/25 accounts.

Colin MacDonald  
May 2024

# Arthur William Davenport (1867-1953)

by Keith Broadbent (BI20)

Until September 2023, Arthur William DAVENPORT was unknown to ODFHS. Our interest in him began when we received an e-mail from Alvaro Cabrera, a journalist in Uruguay, who was researching the history of the Club Atletico Peñarol and its founders.

The Club Atletico Peñarol is now best known as one of the foremost football clubs in Uruguay and, arguably, the world. It is, however, a multi-sport organisation and was formed out of an earlier works-related sports club founded in 1891 by the employees of the Central Uruguay Railway Company, many of whom were English, to promote the growth of cricket and rugby in Uruguay.



Alvaro Cabrera



(above) The badge of  
Club Atletico Peñarol.  
A black background  
with yellow stars and stripes.

Alvaro told us that Arthur William DAVENPORT was one of the founders of the Central Uruguay Railway Cricket Club (CURCC, as it was called), and had been born in Ormskirk in 1867. He had e-mailed to ask if we knew anything about Arthur.

We found that Arthur had, indeed, been born in Ormskirk on 8 May 1867 and baptised at the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul, Ormskirk on 7 July 1867. He was the illegitimate son of Catherine DAVENPORT, who was the youngest child of John and Margaret (nee WOOSEY).

Around this time, the family lived on Aughton Street, Ormskirk, where Arthur's grandfather John (a whitesmith, tinsmith and brazier) had what would now be called a hardware shop, selling household goods including lamps and paraffin oil. John DAVENPORT died in 1875; his wife Margaret lived until 1879. Catherine and Arthur went to live with her widowed elder sister, Ann ORMESHER, at the Eagle and Child Inn (on the corner of Burscough Street and Church Street; the site is now occupied by Hay's Travel), where Catherine also worked as a barmaid.

In 1881, when Arthur was just 14, his mother married Thomas GRAINGER, a plumber, and in 1882 they had their only child, Emma, half-sister to Arthur. Nothing more is heard of Arthur DAVENPORT in Ormskirk after this time, and this is where the story starts to get interesting. But first we have to go back about fifty years.

Before she married John DAVENPORT in 1835, Margaret WOOSEY had two illegitimate sons, Richard (b.1831) and Dennis (b.1833). After their mother's wedding, the two boys remained with Margaret's parents, Richard and Ann WOOSEY, on their farm in Rabbit Lane, Burscough, very close to what is now the Ringtail Industrial Estate. Richard (an agricultural labourer) married, had children and probably remained in the local area for the rest of his life, but nothing was heard of Dennis after 1851.

After a lot of painstaking research and help from Alvaro, it was discovered that Dennis changed his name to Daniel WOOSEY and emigrated to Uruguay, probably some time in the 1850s, as he cannot be found anywhere in the England census of 1861. By about 1870, Daniel had married Rosa McCARTY, a Uruguayan woman of European descent. In 1871 they had a son, John Daniel, and in 1875, a daughter, Catherine Mary, both born in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Alvaro also told us that he believed Daniel had returned to England with his wife Rosa and their children, sometime before 1880, and settled in Upton, Cheshire. On checking the 1881 census, we found them living in an inn in Upton on the Wirral, where Daniel was the licensee. The family did not settle in England; Daniel, Rosa and the children returned to Montevideo in the 1880s. It is possible

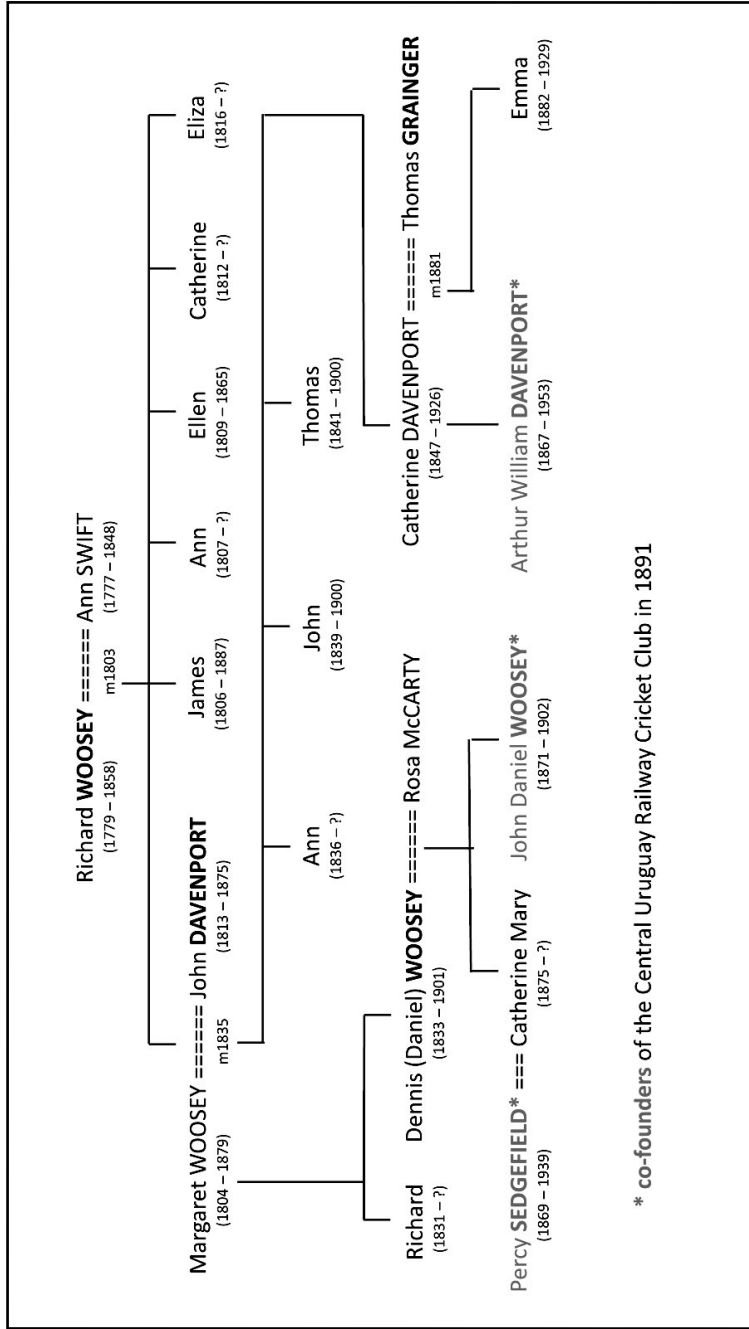
that they took Daniel's cousin, Arthur William DAVENPORT with them, as it is known from family letters that he was in Montevideo by about 1888. If not, he certainly followed after them. In 1891, Arthur William DAVENPORT and John Daniel WOOSEY were two of the employees of the Central Uruguay Railway who founded the CURCC, which later transformed into the Club Atletico Peñarol. Arthur DAVENPORT scored the first ever goal for the CURCC football team, and rose to become the first General Secretary of Club Atletico Peñarol.



*An early CURCC football team from 1899 at the original sports field close to the railway workshops and offices. (Photo supplied by Alvaro Cabrera.)*



*The modern Peñarol stadium (about ten miles away from the original field). Its name - Campeón del Siglo - translates as "Champion of the Century", a reference to Peñarol being awarded the title of best club of the twentieth century in South America. (Photo supplied by Alvaro Cabrera.)*



*A simplified version of the Woosey and Davenport family tree*

A third Central Uruguay Railway employee who helped to found the CURCC was Percy SEDGEFIELD - he later married John WOOSEY's sister, Catherine Mary WOOSEY, so it can confidently be said that the great Uruguayan football club Peñarol was founded by three people with West Lancashire connections. The simplified family tree on page 34 shows the relationship between them.

We know from ships' passenger records that Arthur Davenport was a bookkeeper in 1894. We have a family photograph of him (below, left) looking imposing; it is believed to have been taken in Montevideo in about 1891, when he would have been about twenty-four. He married his first wife, Charlotte Isabel (Nina) VAN DOMSELAAR in the mid-1890s. They had three children - Theodore (b.1897), Edith (b.1899) and Joyce (b.1906).



*A photograph of Arthur Davenport, c.1891*



*Arthur with his daughters Edith and Joyce, in Montevideo, 1921.*

In 1927, Edith DAVENPORT married Richard Everard HAMBRO of the Hambro banking family, one of the richest and most influential families in England. They spent their time living between New York and London and had two children who were born and brought up in England. Her nephew, Charles HAMBRO, was created first Baron Hambro in the mid-twentieth century, and from that point, both she and her father, Arthur DAVENPORT, have been



included in *The Peerage*, the definitive genealogical survey of the nobility of Britain and the royal families of Europe.

Three years after Nina's death, in 1915, Arthur DAVENPORT married again to Norah Georgina PATERSON in Montevideo; they had a son, George Arthur Keith (1920-1990) and a daughter, Norah Patricia (1922-2019). The family travelled to the UK for extended visits twice in the 1920s, when Arthur was described as railway employee.

In May 1929, Arthur, Norah and their two children travelled again, from Uruguay to the UK. This was the start of the family's emigration from Uruguay, as the place of future permanent residence for Norah and the children was given as England. His occupation was given as employee of the Central Uruguay Railway. Arthur went back to Uruguay on his own in July 1929, returning permanently to the UK that December 1929, citing Uruguayan Consul as his occupation (although still giving his UK address as c/o Central Uruguay Railway). The *London Gazette* of 14 March 1930 announced that King George V had been pleased to approve Mr. Arthur W. DAVENPORT's appointment as Consul of Uruguay at Manchester, on 10 February 1930.

It is not known exactly what job Arthur DAVENPORT had with the Central Uruguay Railway, but information from Alvaro suggests he was an “*administrative high rank*”, compatible with board level status. Certainly, the evidence suggests he must have risen to a high level in the company:

- For his daughter to meet with Richard Everard HAMBRO the family must have been mixing in society at a fairly high level - and Richard HAMBRO must have considered her family to be of sufficiently high status for him to be interested in her.
- It is safe to assume that you don't get to be nominated as a Uruguayan Consul overseas if you are a nobody. And for him to be allowed to use the Company's London Office address as his address on his return to England would seem to corroborate this.

By 1939 the family were settled in Tonbridge, Kent where Arthur William DAVENPORT lived until he died on 31 December 1953 at the Royal Cancer Hospital in London. His wife Norah had died two years earlier in 1951.

There is a family photograph (right) of Arthur and Norah taken in 1947 when they attended a wedding.



Of their children, Norah Patricia Davenport married David Galton in 1946. They had three children and seven grandchildren. She died in London in 2019. Two of her children have been very helpful in this research and have provided the family photographs.

So, in summary, Arthur William Davenport:

- Helped found one of the most important football clubs in Uruguay and, arguably, the world
- Rose to a high administrative level (possibly Board level) in the Central Uruguay Railway Company
- Was appointed Uruguayan Consul to Manchester, an appointment approved personally by King George V
- Had a daughter who married into one of the richest and most influential families in England
- Is included in **The Peerage** - the definitive genealogical survey of the peerage of Britain and the royal families of Europe.

Not bad for the son of a single mother, born into an artisan tradesman's family in a small country town in the north of England in the mid-nineteenth century!

# Ormskirk Mediaeval Festival

11 and 12 May 2024



Norma Gregson and Pam Richardson are visited by Historia Normannis re-enactors

Clothing coupons from 1947/48 and a 1953 grocery bill from R. MAWDSLEY were just two items from our Library to interest browsers at this year's Ormskirk Mediaeval Festival, when the Historia Normannis re-enactors staged battles on Coronation Park with their usual enthusiasm - two even made time to visit our display!

In all, sales and membership renewals totalled more than £40, and we were delighted to welcome some new faces amongst our team of volunteers - their help was much appreciated!



(above, left) Jean Gidman, Pam Richardson, Norma Gregson, Lynne Lomas and Colin MacDonal with our display, including our recent publication, *A Slice Of Gingerbread* (above, right) Kate Hurst with Family History and the Lost Buildings of West Lancashire

# Weavers Uprising Bicentennial Committee

The Weavers Uprising Bicentennial Committee (WUBC) is a registered charity working to raise awareness of the 1826 Weavers Uprising in Lancashire. In 1826 many thousands of people died of starvation-related illnesses in east Lancashire, prompting around 20,000 handloom weavers and other working class people to organise a four-day protest, involving the targeted destruction of power looms, a collective attempt to save their children and others from starving, and to preserve their way of life. Rather than provide bread, the government of the day responded with bullets and cold steel, resulting in the massacre of at least nine people in the hamlet of Chatterton, in the Rossendale Valley, on 26 April 1826.

Chaired by Dr. David Scott, the WUBC is working towards commemorations for the bicentenary of the events in April 2026. You can find out more about their work via the Facebook group **The Weavers Uprising Bicentennial Committee**.

## Albert Anderton Coward

by Lindsey Handford



My paternal grandfather, Albert Anderton COWARD, who we knew as Bertie, was born - to the best of our knowledge - in or around Southport in 1890. I have very little information on him before 1901 when the census states that he was an inmate at an orphanage in Lillie Road, Fulham, London aged 10, and born in Southport, Lancashire.

Bertie always said that he had been brought to London by Robert Wilson BLACK, a member of a family of devoted Baptists; Robert's brother, Sydney, had started the

orphanage, known as Twynholm (named after the Scottish village from where their father originated). Bertie remained close to the orphanage and my aunt has memories of being taken to the associated Church with her father, Bertie, as a young child.

When Bertie left for war in 1914, someone there told him that, on his return, they would tell him of his past - but tragically, when he returned, this source had passed away. There is one other link with Lancashire in that 1901 census, an elementary school teacher at the orphanage called Ernest FIRTH, aged 25 and possibly born in Ainsworth.

So what other information do I have? A letter from Lancashire County Council, dated 28 March 1950, accompanied by an 'Extract from the Religious Creed Register of the Ormskirk Union', gives the following information:

Christian Names:	Albert Anderton
Surname:	COWARD
When Born:	1890
Religion:	Church of England
Name of Informant:	Mr. BARRON
Calling of Pauper:	Nil
By whose order admitted:	Mr. BARRON
Cause of Admission:	Destitution
Date of Admission:	19 <sup>th</sup> May 1892
Date of Discharge:	29 <sup>th</sup> May 1895 [to schools]
Whence admitted:	North Meols
Address of Friend:	Mrs. WILSON, 16 Poulton Road, Southport

The letter also states that there is a marginal note alongside the extract which says 'under control of board' and that there is no record of Albert Anderton COWARD's birth in North Meols. Another document I have, apparently a copy of some minutes dated 1894, states that 'the guardians take over the control of the following

children ... Albert A Coward aged 4'. My grandfather believed his birthday to be 20 October, but we do not know how he knew that. Beyond this, I have tried not to make assumptions. I believe that 'to schools' means that at the age of five, Albert was transferred to the industrial school at Ormskirk, implying that he was brought down to London between May 1895 and April 1901.

I have tried to find out more about Mrs. WILSON, although the nature of her involvement is unclear. The 1891 census shows a John WILSON (widower) living at 15 Poulton Street, the stepfather of Elizabeth Ann EXTON (head of the household). Also in residence were Alice HOWARD (a servant) and eighteen month old Herbert TURNER (an adopted son). They seem to be an interesting family, with potentially a couple of coincidences - the address in Poulton Street, and the Wilson surname (also the middle name of Robert BLACK, whose mother's maiden name was WILSON). The HOWARD or COWARD names could easily be typos!

Of course, the big question is why Robert Wilson BLACK (or a member of his family) chose to bring one boy down to London when so many destitute children required the support of the Fulham based orphanage. I have placed one of Robert Wilson BLACK's brothers in Liverpool during this period; in 1891, Arthur Black, a dental surgeon, is recorded as a boarder in Eversley Street, Toxteth Park. Arthur later became a social worker and secretary to the Shaftesbury Society, which created the Ragged Schools and supported destitute children.

By 1921, their sister, Edith Wallis BATTEN (nee BLACK), having lived in the Wandsworth/Putney area since her marriage, lived at 15 Cumberland Road, Southport with her husband Charles William BATTEN; formerly a draper, he was commercial traveller for Coop and Co., costume manufacturer. Edith, like her brothers, had been born in Knightsbridge, and Charles was from Somerset. Is it another coincidence that they are in Southport?

Any further information on any of the names, organisations or circumstances described above would be gratefully received!

## Lathom Park Trust

History Talks available:

- Lathom and the Stanleys
- The Siege of Lathom
- Lathom House 1725-1925

[www.facebook.com/lathomparktrust/](http://www.facebook.com/lathomparktrust/)

[www.lathomparktrust.org.uk](http://www.lathomparktrust.org.uk)

For more info contact via:  
07306368225

## FAMILY HISTORY KATE HURST RESEARCH

*Independent researcher based  
at the Lancashire Archives  
in Preston.*

All enquiries welcome.  
Searches tailored to suit individual  
needs. Price list available.

Other North-West record offices/  
libraries visited by arrangement.

01200 422942

[kate.hurst@icloud.com](mailto:kate.hurst@icloud.com)

[katehurst.wixsite.com/kate-hurst-research](http://katehurst.wixsite.com/kate-hurst-research)

## Subscription Rates

	UK Membership	Overseas Membership
Receiving a printed magazine	£15.00	£20.00
Receiving a digital magazine	£11.00	£11.00

All payments to the Society should be made by cheque, postal order or international money order, crossed and made payable to Ormskirk and District FHS. Regrettably, payments made directly to the Society can only be accepted in Pounds Sterling.

### To pay by UK Bank Transfer:

Sort Code 77 57 01

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Please quote your Surname and ODFHS Membership Number

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## Society Facilities

### Research Library

Located in the Scout Hall, Wigan Road, Ormskirk, a short walk from the bus and railway stations, and local car parks. The Research Library is open by appointment; please contact Kathryn MacDonald at [macdonald6465@gmail.com](mailto:macdonald6465@gmail.com) if you would like to arrange a visit.

### Ormskirk Library Help Desk

Our Help Desk at Ormskirk Library, Burscough Street, Ormskirk runs from 10.30am to around 11.30a.m. on the first Monday of each month (except UK Bank Holidays).



*Covering the Sixteen  
Ancient Parishes and Townships  
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